

We claim:

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1. A computer implemented method, comprising:
 - accepting a posting on a website of a project that a buyer wants completed;
 - receiving a bid on the project from a seller;
 - allowing the buyer to accept the received bid from the seller; and
 - allowing the buyer and the seller to work on the project in a collaborative workspace accessible by only the buyer and the seller.

2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a project name.

3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a project description.

4. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a category.

5. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the posting includes a price estimate.

6. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the bid is received in a closed auction.

7. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the bid is received in an open auction.

8. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the bid is received in a Dutch auction.

1 9. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the collaborative workspace
2 includes:

3 one or more communication tools;
4 a file structure;
5 one or more workbenches; and
6 one or more project management tools.

1 10. The computer implemented method of claim 9, wherein the file structure includes at
2 least one private folder.

1 11. The computer implemented method of claim 9, wherein the file structure includes at
2 least one shared folder.

1 12. A computer implemented method, comprising:
2 accepting on a website, the posting of a service offering by a seller;
3 receiving requirements for the service offering from a buyer;
4 returning an optimized list of service offerings to the buyer in accordance with the
5 buyer's requirements; and
6 accepting a purchase request for the service offering from the buyer.

1 13. The computer implemented method of claim 12, wherein at least one of the buyer's
2 requirements is inflexible.

1 14. The computer implemented method of claim 12, wherein the optimized list includes
2 service offerings that meet all of the buyer's requirements.

1 15. The computer implemented method of claim 12, wherein the optimized list includes
2 service offerings that meet a subset of the buyer's requirements.

1 16. A computer implemented method, comprising:

2 accepting on a website, the posting of a service offering for a project by a seller;

3 receiving requirements for the service offering from a buyer;

4 accepting a purchase request for the service offering from the buyer; and

5 allowing the buyer and the seller to work on the project in a collaborative workspace
accessible by only the buyer and the seller.

1 17. In a computer system, an apparatus used by a buyer and seller for buying and selling
2 services over a network, comprising:

3 a web server for connecting to the network;

4 an application connected to the web server for generating information based on
5 communication with the buyer and seller;

6 a database connected to the application for storing information received from the
7 application in memory.
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